

# **2008 Northern Rockies Dispatchers' Workshop**

**March 11-13, 2008**

**Butte, Montana**

**Hosted by Dillon Dispatch Center**

## **Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Home Unit</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Home Unit</b>
Judy Heintz	MT-DDC	Shannon Bonney	MT-LEC
Wendy Dougherty	ID-CDC	Laura Dooley	WY-YNP
Traci Scott	MT-BUD	Bert Starr	MT-BZC
Doug Caffee	MT-DDC	Sally Estes	ID-CDC
Marie Smith	MT-DDC	Gaylen Yeates	MT-BZC
Kathy Elzig	MT-NRC	Frank Waterman	MT-KDC
Gary Boyd	MT-NRC	Susan Taylor	MT-NRC
Debbie Godfrey	ID-IDC	Kristine Salmonson	MT-MDC
Gary Weber	ID-CDC	Andrew Randall	ND-NDC
Julia Genre	ID-CDC	Cobey Williamson	MT-KDC
Katie Hitchcock	ID-CDC/ID-IDL	Patrick Nooney	MT-NRK
Donna Hawkins	MT-HNF	Ned Winebrenner	MT-PDC
Rosanna Finley	MT-HDC	Jay McAllister	MT-LEC
Gloria Gunther	MT-MCC	Joe Couture	MT-FHA
Alyssa Stewart	MT-NRC	Steve Culp	AD-HNF
Amy Lancaster	MT-MCC	Roy Robinson	MT-MDC
Steve LeFever	MT-KDC	Rick Kusicko	ID-GVC
Maria Helterline	MT-PDC	Ann Speer	MT-HNF
Mickey Carr	MT-KDC	Larry Elder	MT-BDC
Kitty Ortman	NRTC	Mark Heppler	MT-BDC
Robert LaPlant	MT-RMA	Laura Rasmussen	MT-BDC
Rogers Warren	NRCC	Ray Hart	MT-BDC
Angel Becker	MT-BDC	Twilla House	MT-CRA
Shauna Smith	MT-MDC	Travis S. Collier	MT-GDC
Julie Polutnik	NRCC	Gail Thurston	MT-GDC
Nancy Gibson	MT-MDC	Carol Bienhold	MT-KIC
Kelly McKee	MT-BRC	Pat Troyer	MT-KIC
Tony Lubke	MT-BRC	Marley Sitz	ID-FCD
Raymond Nelson	MT-NRC	Faye Chandler	WO – Fire Help Desk
Julie Lombardo	ID-GVC	Chuck Wamack	ID-FCD

This year's Dispatcher Workshop for the Northern Rockies was hosted by Dillon Dispatch Center and held in Butte, Montana. Judy Heintz, Center Manager of DDC served as facilitator.

Rick Hotaling, Field Manager of the BLM Butte Field Office, welcomed workshop attendees to Butte, provided information about local sites, gave restaurant recommendations, and graciously provided one of his staff members to take notes at the workshop.

The following is a summation of topics discussed.

## **March 11, 2008 – Day One**

**Mike Kreyenhagen and Rob Kaczmarek from the Northern Rockies Predictive Services** gave a recap of the 2007 fire season and to give us an indication of what can be anticipated for the 2008 fire season. A map was created last April to show significant fire potential for the months of May through August. IA efforts were effective in reducing the potential for more large fires.

In 2007, we dodged a bullet in the Idaho Panhandle, which had few fire starts, and Miles City area, which did not have many large fires.

For 2008, because of the La Nina conditions, snowpack/precipitation west of the Divide has been good and conditions have improved. For the eastern portion of the region however (western ND and pockets in Montana), it is very dry and conditions have worsened. Some of the Northern Plains area has received only 25-30% of normal precipitation.

The big fire concerns around the United States are Texas and the Southeast. For the months of April – June, the climate experts predict that temperatures will be above normal over a large part of the US (West, Southeast). For July – September the climate trend will be hot and dry throughout the Western US and the Southeast. Precipitation is predicted to be below normal in Washington, Western Montana, Oregon, and Idaho.

Spring is expected to be normal. Continued La Nina conditions may bring cooler and possibly wetter conditions and normal to above normal snowpack. Summer should bring more warm/dry conditions July-September, with grasses curing early in western ND and central/eastern Montana. Helena and Deer Lodge areas are expected to be a little dryer than usual.

Robb Kaczmarek will soon be leaving the Northern Rockies and joining the National Weather Service office in Chicago.

**Brian Sharkey, Joe Domitrovich and Theron Miller from MTDC** presented information on Workplace Stress. During the 2007 fire season, a study was conducted focusing on members of Incident Management Teams. This study was conducted in the field and included fitness tests and spit tests to measure hormones secreted (including cortisol, testosterone and salivary immunoglobulin A) when a person is stressed. The study has found the following risk factors:

35% overweight  
39% hypertension  
41% high cholesterol  
39% sedentary

The dispatcher group was then asked to give examples of how their jobs were stressful. The MTDC trio seemed a bit surprised at the amount of responses given and suggested that stress measurements should be taken within the dispatcher group. The NR Dispatch Steering Committee met later that evening and decided a T&D request would be submitted to [bsharkey@fs.fed.us](mailto:bsharkey@fs.fed.us) asking for dispatcher input to the stress study.

### **Chuck Wamack, Marley Sitz – NICC Update.**

Chuck presented the National Dispatcher of the Year award to Amy Lancaster of Miles City. Congratulations, Amy!!

The following updates were given:

#### **Administrative:**

Requests for resources mobilized to an incident *before* receiving a Resource Order *will not be processed*.

#### **Cost Coding:**

Use one finance code consistent with incident type.

Assign one fire code per fire and limit those who have privileges to do so.

The National Response Plan is now called the National Response Framework.

The Forest Service established procedures for ASC to issue job codes against FEMA MAs (F-codes) for FY 2008. If no emergency declaration exists, local dollars are being spent during support activities. Once a declaration is made, FEMA dollars will be spent. There is no reimbursement unless FEMA tasks us to do.

DOI will use fire code D0YY when assigned to FS severity.

#### **Air tankers:**

There is a 90-day interim contract. The new contract for up to 26 items is expected mid-March.

#### **MAFFS 2 (Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems – 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation):**

Two tanks at MAFFS training May 5-9. For info contact Scott Fisher @ 208-387-5968.

#### **SEATS (Single Engine Air Tankers):**

BLM is not renewing 17 EXC contracts.

Variable contracts will be for 30/60/90 days.

FS ASMs (Aerial Supervision Module)/Leadplanes:

Solicitation went out February 28<sup>th</sup> for 10-20 platforms.

Same make/model, one contractor year round.

Award should be made by late May.

Large Transport:

No contract for NICC jet.

Award expected by end of March, with a June 15 start date.

NICC can procure a jet if needed in the interim.

Big 35 Helicopter:

Contract ends April 1 and is not renewed.

T1 (FS Large Fire Support):

EXC contract due out by mid April.

Some changes for engine types:

Water tenders –

Support 1-3

Tactical 1-2

T3 engines and Tactical water tenders shall have foam proportioning system.

All water tenders and T3-T6 engines must be able to prime and pump from 10 foot lift.

National Commissary contract will not be renewed.

NFES 4253 (UHF Link) added to NFES 4312 (4390 is still 10 boxes).

NFES Critical Items List is now known as the Managed Items List.

BLM requested HMGB replace HELB and HELM.

National Fire Weather Ops Coordinator has new toll free number 1-877-323-IMET (4638)

Verbiage has been added to the Smokejumper section of Chapter 20 (National Mob Guide)

BLM IHC IA Crews

Three crews identified (UT, NV, CO – Craig) have enhanced IA capabilities and responsibilities for BLM land.

Priority for IA on BLM land.

Prevention Team:

Schedule added back into National Mob Guide.

Each geographical area has contact person. Contact information is located in Chapter 60 (National Mob Guide).

Tom Zimmerman is leading a group is tasked with developing a Long Duration Fire Planning template.

IMT request rationale protocols are being rewritten.

NIMO is replacing Ferguson and adding 2 additional teams.

There have been problems associated with a lack of self-sufficiency of resources. Mary Ann Szymoniak is working with ASC on a resolution.

National Fire and Aviation Executive Board merging with NWCG, which will improve coordination of policy, standards, and operations. The intent is to decrease confusion, reduce duplication, and simplify governance.

Dispatch Efficiency Working Group's (DEW) Interagency Standards for ROSS Operations Guide is available on NICC website. Edits and editions are currently being completed. Draft guidance for use of non-standard overhead groups in ROSS has been completed.

<http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive/ISROG.pdf>

PMS-312 (Expanded Dispatch Job Aids) is undergoing a rewrite.

**Kathy Elzig of NRC gave the Northern Rockies Update.**

Dispatch Feasibility Study:

Data call sent to 4700 – about 50% responded.

80-90% of agency employees responded.

After a briefing has been given to FS and DOI leadership in Washington, a report will be sent out in mid-May. There will be an opportunity to comment. The leadership in the Washington Office will make decisions and give 6 months for a plan to implement changes.

ID requirements for Crews heading out of US:

Hotshot crews have been advised to purchase passports.

The Passport Card is another option for land travel to Canada or Mexico.

If there is a need to mobilize a large amount of resources, Immigrations/Customs can write a letter to waive requirements, however this would be time-consuming.

Check with the State Department website for updated information. <http://travel.state.gov/>

## **March 12, 2008 – Day Two**

### **Mark Heppler gave the Dispatch Steering Committee Update**

Members of the Steering Committee are:

Kim Thomas – Chairperson  
Mark Heppler – Co-Chairperson  
Wendy Dougherty  
Alyssa Stewart  
Tony Lubke  
Julie Lombardo

One of the first issues the Steering Committee will address is better communication with the incoming Logistics Chief – so they know what is already there and what is still needed.

The Steering Committee is putting in a request to MTDC to include dispatcher input for the stress survey.

### **Dispatch Reps to NRCG Committee Reports**

Mark Heppler, Representative for the Operations Committee briefed the group on the following:

Best Value contractors don't want to stay the entire term of their contract.

Albuquerque Service Center needs help

Lowboy Issues (stay on incident after equipment drop, pay rates, etc)

Brought up issue of DIVS being able to bring GPS units with them as long as it is documented on Resource Order, however since there are foreseeable issues, the group will bring the issue up at the next meeting.

Type 3 teams are being overloaded – they are being asked to handle what used to be Type 2 incidents.

Liaisons are going to be a required position on NR T1 & T2 teams.

Faller Modules contracted in the NR this year.

Mark stated he will do better passing on information and will distribute the agenda before meetings.

Gail Thurston informed the group that the updates for the Prevention Committee and flyers were on the sharing table. According to the update sheet, a brief description of the following Action Items are in the works (please refer to handout for complete updates):

The Restrictions sub-committee has received requests for changes to the NRCG Restriction and Closure Procedures. Revision and updating of the FAQ document will incorporate State, FS, and BLM info and other changes.

Educating County Attorneys and Sheriffs about their ability to enact/enforce restrictions, as well as educating counties that give burn permits under Stage I and Stage II restrictions.

Restrictions web page – a sub-committee is working with other entities to build a web based restriction database with mapping which will be accessible to the Public.

Keep Montana Green is bringing the Smokey Hot Air Balloon to Kalispell, Missoula, Helena, Lewistown, and Billings May 12-16. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact Pat Cross ([pcross@mt.gov](mailto:pcross@mt.gov)) for more information.

“All this for one careless moment” State Billboard Campaign. The FS is giving \$5000 to the State through a grant for 12 billboards.

National Prevention Teams have been added in ROSS. Sandy Groth is the new Northern Rockies’ prevention team Coordinator.

FireSafe Council of Montana – Assistance and other information will be available at [www.firesafemt.org](http://www.firesafemt.org)

Two representatives will attend the 2009 Great Basin/Northern Rockies Interagency Fire Prevention/Education workshop in Jackson, WY on May 6-8.

The Prevention Committee is looking into the possibility of volunteer citizen organizations through Citizen Corps. More info at [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)

Robert LaPlant gave the Native American Crew Committee update on the following:

The next meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn in Missoula March 25-26.

Quality vs. Quantity – If you have any stories of success or issues, please get to Robert.

Give sending units a call to find out if they have credit cards. For issues with crew self-sufficiency, contact Ray Nelson or Robert.

Trying to bring up number of crews.

Camp crews have increasing numbers.

Not many Crew Reps available anymore. If you send crew bosses as crew reps, it breaks up the crews. If no crew reps are available, maybe orders for IARRs should be beefed up.

Rosanna Finley gave the update on the Training Committee:

D-310-1 is in the final edit stage. Qualifications are not changing, they are just getting the chapter more in line with the task book. If you have any input you would like considered, consolidate and submit to Kathy Elzig to funnel through the Steering Committee. They are not soliciting comments as this is not a rewrite. Duplications have been removed.

They are looking for people to be on the panel for the NRTC aviation position. If you are interested, let Kitty Ortman know.

Classes – Do we need to put on in region in 2009?

D-310	Couer d' Alene hosting	42 need
D-312		22 need
D-311	Great Falls is hosting	36 need
Intel		14 need

New D-310 is group-driven (4 per table) and has lots of ROSS.

Rosie will be the course coordinator. We need a Lead Instructor and will hire an AD as last resort only. Center managers need to respond NLT April 1, 2008 (to Mark or Kim of the Steering Committee) with who can provide unit instructors.

Forest Service is sponsoring Intel training.

A new NR Training Center manager should be named and in place soon.

The Wildland Fire Feasibility Study is waiting on the Dispatch Feasibility Study.

Will consider putting on M-480 during next Dispatcher Workshop.

Tony Lubke gave the Business Committee update:

The Northern Rockies supplement to the IBC – Chapter 20 will be out as soon as possible, the others will be coming out as they are finished.

Revisiting spreadsheet to update costs.

No Northern Rockies National Buying Team this year as there was no buying team leader interest.

APMC (Agency Provided Medical Care) – discussed not using; using IMS in camp. If people go to hospital it will be treated as OWCP. This change has come about because of



misuse. APMC could be limited to things like camp crud, or may be eliminated altogether. APMC costs double because OWCP fees are being paid already. They may still be accepting comments on impacts of doing away with APMC.

Ann Speer provided the group with an update from the Equipment Committee.

Viper will be online in 2009; it cannot link to ROSS.

In 2009, new generation fire shelters will be required for contractors.

Rental car abuse and costs are rising. Considering the possibility of pooling agency vehicles which will be going up for sale.

Lowboy issues are being worked on (teams keeping at incident).

Chapters 20 and 50 are being revised.

The EERA contract award has been sent out to Center Managers.

**Ray Nelson and Elaine Huseby provided the DNRC Update.**

Ray Nelson – Accounting

There is a plan to revamp the F300 systems.

Accounting system – \$103 million was spent by the state of Montana last year.

DNRC is ok with multiple codes if circumstances dictate the need.

How SABHRS numbers are established:

Numbers are driven by Land Office

SABHRS number ex. 55001

55001 – Odd years start with 001, even years start with 201

55001 – Designates Land Office

First digit designates type of fire.

55001 – DNRC Direct – charge property owners fees through property taxes. People expect service from state.

75001 – Supporting Federal Agency – DNRC will bill – with the exception of some circumstances.

85001 – County Assist – if the county requests, DNRC can provide help and financial support.

Dispatcher time (The first 2 denotes even year) – supporting out of area:

71226 – Miscellaneous out of region charge.

71225 – In-region dispatcher support.

This spring, visits will be made to Dispatch Centers during the last weeks of May to explain the numbering systems.

The DNRC chart explaining DNRC assigned numbers can be found on the Fire and Aviation Management website located at:

<http://dnrc.mt.gov/forestry/Fire/Business/Documents/2008SABHRSFireNumbers.pdf>

Elaine Huseby – MT DNRC Intel Gathering

The F300 is the database system used when fires break on MT state ground.

The new system will pick SABHRS numbers for you. If fire changes and you have to assign another number, you can change that date. System will track changes and who made them.

Hoping to have Dispatch/Fire Business/Cost Modules this year.

There are several beta sites which will need to provide input.

Simple – one fire, one incident number (except in unusual circumstances). Can override the incident number if necessary (i.e. FEMA).

This is a web-based system – everyone can see the info (can see other areas as well).

Database will now accept other incident numbers.

Cost shares are going into the database. If DNRC pays for it, they want a report on it.

Incidents can be grouped into a complex by pulling up a complex form and adding incidents. The complex would get it's own incident and SABHRS numbers.

At this time only Dillon is using WildCAD, however Helena and Great Falls will try to get onboard with it in the near future. A daily auto-export feature to F300

from WildCAD is being worked on (you could still go into F300 and make edits if necessary). This feature would mean only entering data once!

**Kitty Ortman and Mark Heppler provided updates on training.**

**Kitty Ortman**

IFPM (Interagency Fire Program Management) – The Forest Service still has not determined how many credits are needed to meet qualification standards. The BLM and Forest Service are not following the same standards. Please refer to the handout which lists issues recorded at the last IFPM meeting that was provided at the Dispatcher Workshop.

NWCG courses no longer count toward IFPM credits unless they are listed on transcripts from accredited universities.

FSH 5109.17 – Technical Specialist qualifications information added to Chapter 20; came out in November 2007.

New task books should be available the end of May. If someone is working on a task book which is not complete, they must go with the new task book, however the old and new will be stapled together.

D-310, D-311, D-312 all have a prerequisite of D-110 Dispatch Recorder. D-311 also has a prerequisite of S-130 and S-190.

New D-310 Instructor prerequisite – Lead instructor must be a Supervisory or IA dispatcher. Unit and Lead instructors must have completed M-410 or equivalent.

**Mark Heppler**

S-420 Command & General Staff is required to be staff on a T2 team. Training will now be held in the field. Students will shadow the team. Additional classwork will be attempted while cadre is there to help reduce costs. The cost of holding in a classroom setting was \$15,000; we're looking at a cost of approximately \$7,000 by holding the training in the field. Students can stay for the entire Type 2 team assignment if needed beyond their training time.

Impact to dispatchers – this new training arrangement will result in 7 to 8 additional people working with the team on the incident. Students will be pre-identified and will be ordered on a separate resource order so that tracking and costs are kept separate.

Marketing will be done to recruit more students to add to the list. Communication with the students on the list has not yet taken place as the list must still be prioritized. Current team members are the number one priority.

Kudos were given to the Operations Committee who created a subgroup to work on S-420.

**Ray Nelson gave updates on ROSS.**

Mob Guide Update – Speak with cooperators and bring feedback for updates.

Grammar/Typos – due by April 15

Phone numbers and other critical info – Try to have in by May 1<sup>st</sup>, but will be accepted up to printing date.

The new ROSS version is 2.7.0.24. Things have been changed in the Production version, but not in the Practice version. Update to the Practice version will possibly be made this spring. Wednesday practice sessions will have to be done using the old Practice version. There are concerns about practicing in the Production module because of cleanup issues. This issue will be discussed at the National Center Management meeting. A fallback plan needs to be addressed. Feedback is anticipated.

New info will be shared and conference calls will be held. If anyone takes an early season assignment and learns new things they could share what they've learned with others. Ray Nelson will contact folks the first week of April to hash things out.

Kathy Elzig is encouraging all centers to participate in Wednesday refresher training sessions, especially for those people who don't use ROSS very often.

**Julie Polutnik gave updates Naming Conventions.**

As of March 12, 2008, there are no new Naming Conventions. Thanks for all of the cleanup; some have more to do.

Change board request has new order form – includes field for suggested change/ suggested solution. Last fall about 50 change requests were received. Previous change requests were reviewed as well.

COGNOS updates:

New ad hoc query tool coming – working with folks to make sure that everything is working and that same data is in COGNOS.

Passwords will have new parameters – 12 characters for enhanced security. When 12 characters are used, passwords must only be made every 6 months, as opposed to using 9 characters and having to change passwords every 60 to 90 days.

**Amy Lancaster provided Aviation updates.**

Fleet wide, DNRC helicopters will now be equipped with AFF. 92M already is equipped.

Miles City doesn't determine where they go. Area Fire Program Managers do. Discussion between local DNRC reps and dispatchers is vital. It's important to go ahead and get your order placed – if it gets pulled back so be it, but at least the order will be placed.

With regard to POCs not being clear and there being too many side conversations, ask if John Monzi or Fire Managers have been contacted. In remarks, add who ordered.

Morning briefing of helicopter locations should be shared by Area Program Manager who attends briefing.

**Allen Edmonds presented the BLM Aircraft updates.**

None of the exclusive use SEAT contracts will be renewed; but there will be a variable term contract for SEATs.

All other exclusive use contracts were renewed at the same numbers/locations as 2007.

**2008 Exclusive Use Fleet Configuration**

- 7 Smokejumper ships
- 2 Water scoopers
- 3 ASMs out of Boise
- 9 Air Attacks (one in Lewistown, MT)
- 4 Utility fixed wing out of Boise
- 24 Rotor-wing (8 Type II, 16 Type III)

**ASM**

6 ASM crews available for FY2008

New Aerial Supervision Guide 08 will be forthcoming

**ATGS**

Contract changes:

From CWN to On Call – Copies of Contract for Dispatch Centers

National Exclusive Use contracts awarded this week.

National BLM Exclusive Use inventories the same.

MT – (ATGS Exclusive Use moved from Miles City to Lewistown) 90-day contracts (May 15 – Aug 15) unless National folks call up early.

ATGS BLM Inventories:

On call aircraft inventories – 67 Total Type I (33 Type II) (17 Type III)

### Helicopters

Contract Changes:

Terminology change from CWN to On Call. National Exclusive Use changed – Three National Exclusive Use upgrades from Type III to Type II for Oregon, Idaho, Alaska.

Miles City helicopter based at Miles City Airport

BLM Helicopter Inventories:

84 total on call inventories (25) Type II, (59) Type III

### SEATs

Contract changes:

From CWN to On Call – Copies of contract for dispatch centers. (500-800 gals)

From Exclusive Use to Variable Term contracts

Contract periods will vary from 30/60/90 days (700 gals +) and cannot be extended. Once term is up, have to order up again.

Best Value determination – once contractor puts all aircraft out, go to 2<sup>nd</sup>. If the first contractor gets aircraft back, you must go back to them.

On call aircraft requests go through normal dispatching channels. Unit Aviation Managers and FAOs may request assistance from State Aviation Managers in acquiring aircraft for Dispatch Centers.

FY 2008 ISOG will be available sometime this month.

FY 2008 SEAT Operations Guide should be out in April.

BLM SEAT Inventories:

76 Total (60 On Call, 16 Variable Term)

#### BLM State Aviation Managers

Required to submit daily reports on all assigned aircraft for Time and Costs.

Coordinate with NAO Aircraft Coordinators in movement of aircraft in conjunction with regional fire units.

Montana BLM State Aviation Plan will encompass the local units General Aviation and Resource Aviation Plans. Units will retain aircraft specific fire operational plans for FY 2008.

Unit Aviation Orientation Guides will be consolidated into one State Guide for FY 2008.

#### **Rogers Warren gave the NRC Aviation updates.**

It's still ok to IA order smokejumpers and air tankers via fax with follow-up in ROSS. 13 Air tanker orders and 3 Smokejumper orders were faxed last year.

Northern Rockies draft 2008 Frequency Guide – make sure your frequencies are correct.

Aircraft appendices will be out soon.

#### **Chuck Wamack – NICC Aircraft**

Contracts are starting to roll out now.

New aircraft are in the system.

New verbiage has been added to air tanker contracts.

Aviation feasibility study – 42 changes.

#### **Debby Wesselius (FS) updated on Incident Procurement.**

Best Value equipment items have gone through a competitive solicitation process. Water-handling equipment contractors are being allowed to rebid their rates for '08 because fuel costs are so high. New priority lists will be generated. (Final list to Dispatch 6/1/08).

EATIS still used for '08 for engines and water tender awards information, but all equipment to be in VIPR for '09.

Region 6 will solicit for GIS trailer units nationwide.

BLM – soliciting for Potable water, grey water and caterers.

Mechanic with truck solicitation closing date is 4/18/08.

Soliciting heavy equipment next year – looking at Mob-in/Mob-out.

If lowboys are kept at incident, camp must make sure there is an EERA in place, submit a request for an E# and make sure Carrier Insurance is held.

Training MOUs – are auditing courses to make sure classes the contractors are taking are all up to standards. There is a moratorium for adding new trainers unless there are no other trainers in an area. These situations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Faller Module Solicitation:

Type 1 : Single Faller	}	Professional - 3 years with 1000 hrs/yr.
Module (2 Fallers)		

Type 2 : Single Faller	}	Class “C” Quals - Minimum past 3 years
Module (2 Fallers)		

Must come fully equipped and operational, and must be insured. They will have to submit a resume and be evaluated by a panel.

Modules will be assigned to Dispatch Zones based on location stated in agreement. Individual fallers can only be under one agreement.

Although Agency fallers are ordered as overhead, Contract faller modules and single fallers are ordered as equipment.

Other issues: If a contractor does not arrive for inspection when scheduled, go to next on priority list. Email Debby Wesselius when that happens to give her a heads up. Make sure to complete a performance evaluation.

There are no times listed in solicitation for responses – you are not even required to leave a voicemail, just document you called and at what time and move to the next on the list.

**Jeff Williams (MT-DNRC) gave update on sack lunches, portable toilets, communication trailers and rental vehicles solicitations.**

Invitations for contract were sent out:

Sack lunches – 354 Montana and 50 Idaho vendors.

Portable toilets –130 region-wide



Rental vehicles – 85 region-wide

Communication trailers – 10 region-wide

Make sure you use the lists to get better prices and have information – this ensures more participation in the program.

Potties and hand washing stations – 50 mile radius now. We pay mileage for 10 units or less (sinks and toilets).

FAQs will be posted on the website.

Sack Lunches - for more than 20, no list of names is necessary; not set in stone yet but they are working on it. (Restaurant authorization form is still required for sit-down meals.)

Rental vehicle – For billing/tracking purposes, a close out must be done on a rental vehicle before sending the vehicle to another incident. The form must be signed by the vendor.

**Jane Haker (FS) and Pam Okon (MT-DNRC) updated the group on Incident Business Management.**

There have been issues with AD pay being held up until they get home due to delayed processing. They will be able to do an estimation for return travel at fire camp and send it in to help speed things up.

Preseason signups – If signup occurs before dispatching to incident, send forms in then (I-9 forms, direct deposit forms, etc.).

Fire code validation – Jane is still sending out spreadsheets monthly. FMOs need to let dispatchers know what are reimbursable expenses. (Reimbursable expenses are those that are actually going to be reimbursed and a billing package will be prepared).

The new “white pages” for the handbook are out. The supplement (Ch. 20) will be out next week. NRCG will put out supplements and FS will put a cover on it.

Chapter Changes:

Chapter 10:

EFF pay rates are done (2.99% + GHI frozen)

AD rates are not out yet (should be out this month)

CANR added

New position descriptions for exceptions on NRCG website

National commissary type items to be added

Chapters 30:

No change

Chapter 40:

No change

Chapter 50:

Idaho did some minor tweaking

Montana did some minor tweaking, as well as some clarification and updates.

Chapter 70:

No change

Chapter 80:

Spreadsheet

Miscellaneous:

Local government engines get E#s, however people on the engines do not get O#s.

For shortage positions, only received feedback from the Equipment Committee. Added quite a few overhead.

Giving flexibility for training ADs for higher qualifications. The government is not required to train them – especially if they are in a position with shortages. This is a guideline only.

Subsistence cannot be changed to Per Diem by incident – this can only be changed by the host unit.

If you have a need to set up a Mob Center or Inspection Center, call Jane and Pam to set up a cost-share agreement before doing so.

Montana Legislature sub-committee – received many complaints about having excessive wait times for pre-use inspections. Pam was tasked to compile information and will be contacting centers soon.

Co-op Law Enforcement – RO going to put specific language of what they can bill for and what their duties are, etc. Still being worked out.

Probably are going to put on S-481 in May (tentative dates May 6-8).

ISuite – Will get set up in local units and start using for Type 3 and Type 4 incidents. Full training courses are being held.

**Brian Williams from ACE (Administrative Center for Excellence) updated the group on what ACE could do for Dispatch.**

Please refer to the handout Brian provided of what is supported through Albuquerque (18 people are at ACE, 11 can do fire). Last year we had to go through the Acquisition Zone first for micropurchasing support, this year ACE can help as well.

**Dan McGee – Contracting officer for B-D NF**

VIPR will be replacing EATIS for contracted equipment. The implementation date is planned for November 2008 if things stay on schedule. The ROSS integration process begins April and runs through about this time next year.

**Gary Boyd updated on Incident Management Teams**

Still under consideration:

Fire Use Team – Name change to IMT2 (Long-term); add 3 positions including a finance position.

The IMT meeting will be April 7-9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting agenda is posted on the NRCC website. If EFF/AD not on team roster, check with IC to see if they need to be at the meeting. This is handled on a case-by-case basis.

Chuck Stanich will not be a Type 1 IC this year. Larsen and Bennett will be.

Inbrief/Outbrief packages still need work but should be in team plan this year.

Application for alternates – may be changed so they are not just applying for one team.

Short Team/Long Team – order what is needed vs. only using standard long team configuration.

Supply orders – there's not a big push right now to enter supply items in ROSS.

**Faye Chandler – NIFC Help Desk Updates (FAMWEB)**

Contact phone number is 1-800-253-5559 7:30 – 5:00 Mountain Time

Email: [firehelp@nwccg.gov](mailto:firehelp@nwccg.gov)

Duty officer is available for EMERGENCIES ONLY.

Three interagency people are on the help desk.

Last year the helpdesk received a total of 7,613 calls. The Forest Service was the largest caller.

The largest volume of calls was for AFF.

COGNOS – Search tool – Front end for Data Warehouse – 3 weeks testing before it goes to production. Can be used to run reports like in ROSS, the public will be able to run queries (i.e. fires, weather data).

Passwords – making one log-on to access all programs you have access to.

FAMWEB – If you are having problems, look on the FAMWEB page to see if there are any alerts listed.

Links to GACCs and Predictive Services are now on homepage.

AFF – Forest Service has approved the use of Google Earth.

A-115 – Automated Flight Following – Web based training available at <https://www.iat.gov/>

Aviation Management Information System (AMIS) is for WCF aircraft only. All others are in the Aviation Business System (ABS). They are not linked at this time.

FireFamily Plus 4.0 beta version – released on March 10, 2008

The FPA system is being redesigned. When it is reengineered, what you've done won't be imported from PCHA.

The Southwest Area has a link for the SIT-209 User Guide @ [http://gacc.nifc.gov/training/intelligence/support\\_programs/209\\_program/index.htm](http://gacc.nifc.gov/training/intelligence/support_programs/209_program/index.htm)

The Fire and Weather Data has been updated. File names are still being changed to reflect 2007 data.

DMS shut down any email to FS due to security issues. Currently it may take up to 2 days to get email through DMS.

## **Gaylen Yeates (BLM) updated on WildCAD and ROSS Quals Statusing**

### WildCAD

There is a license available to BLM employees and Dispatch Centers with BLM employees. Sixteen new centers are installing this year nationally.

Northern Rockies:

Dillon and Bitterroot are currently using.

Great Falls, Helena, Bozeman and Billings are getting this year.

WildCAD/ROSS beta testing interface. Hope to have available by the end of this year.

(Comments made by Chuck Wamack)

END to END → One CAD system nationwide for good information – WildCAD is only system. BLM is coming up with \$1,000,000 to review what's needed. It must be on local server and has to link to everything. Data in WildCAD will import into new system.

In comparison, California's Alturist CAD costs \$1,000,000 per center. Everything must be custom designed.

Rich Wilson (South Idaho) is the User Rep for Idaho, Montana and Alaska.

Resource Statusing in ROSS:

Want a higher level of info from ROSS (true overhead availability).

Short term solution – Put in a change request to allow statusing per qualification. Doable for this year – but haven't heard back yet.

If we can hide quals, we want ROSS to reset for all quals once the resource is out on assignment to allow for reassignment flexibility.

**At the end of Day 2, Mark Heppler, on behalf of the Steering Committee, presented a Ray Nelson photograph to Dillon Dispatch Center as thanks for putting on the 2008 Dispatch Workshop.**

## **March 13, 2008 – Day Three**

### **Tom Corbin (BIA) and Chuck Stanich (LNF) discussed Appropriate Management Response.**

#### Tom Corbin

Last year, we were 97% successful on AMR, which is our objective for every fire.

However, we need to recognize that the fire environment has changed and we must adjust our AMR for better effectiveness. We need to focus on larger fires and use resources more effectively since we don't have as many resources as we used to. It will take time to change the public perception; complete suppression is not the answer.

Priority is Initial Attack. As conditions continue to change, our number of fires will increase and our effective use of resources will have to increase; otherwise our success rate will fall. We moved a lot of resources around last year and shared resources with neighbors. We don't have as many options as we used to – now fires get big fast. We need to plan a good attack. The more effectively we use our resources, the more we'll have for the next fire.

Budgets are being cut by Congress – we have fewer resources than we did 15 years ago. Money is being spent elsewhere (Iraq). Federal agencies have been working together to try to get more resources to put on the ground. If budgets stay flat, we are going to lose more. We're trying to stay even.

There is an emphasis to reduce impacts from long-term fires (i.e. smoke).

#### Chuck Stanich

Responsibilities change. Our resources are cut in half, there are not as many crews. In 2006 we didn't make it to Preparedness Level 5 due to a lack of crews. Requirements have changed as a result. Fifty percent of crews and retardant aircraft went away. We need to be honest with the public about realities. Competition for resources gets stiffer when preparedness levels rise.

In 2006 our success rate was 95%, in 2007 it was 98%. Our success has been consistently between 95-97%. However, fire seasons are starting earlier and we've had record high temps. We need to continue working together and having discussions so we can keep up with changes.

One of the NR T1 team Incident Commanders recently told the MT State Legislature that we don't have enough resources to deal with all the fires. We need to be honest, tell people what you're going to do and deal with reality. Better communication is necessary to be effective when working through tough times.

**Pat Nooney – Supply Management Officer at NRK gave the Northern Rockies Cache Update.**

The Northern Rockies Cache is one of eleven management caches. Last year there was an overall loss of 10% of durable property. There was a surge of returns in November, which dropped the loss to 9%. We still came in under the national average. The national loss rate is below 20%.

The loss rate of Type 3 incidents are more than double that of Types 1 and 2, however the national reports are only for Types 1 and 2.

Refurbishment work – will barely finish around June 12, which is 3 days short of when we should be ready for the 2008 season.

Budget and Staffing – NRK is operating at 88% budget and 70-80% staffing. They are looking at the possibility of a 20% decrease in staffing this year as well. Two new positions were hired this year – one was a mechanic, the other only stayed a day and a half when he realized it was not a year round position. Please be patient with the cache.

In 2007 the cache was asked to supply Type 3 teams, there was a huge impact on the cache dealing with long term planning. Lots of resources went out on reserve which affected the cache. The cache ordered extra items to have on hand which required more space, more money, and more workload.

ICSR is reengineered and supposed to provide barcode capability, be able to communicate with ROSS. It is based on a warehouse management system, which meant the cache layout had to be reoriented. This year, the ICRS system will not be communicating with ROSS or deal with returns.

The NRK will be operating on 2 systems soon; the new ICRS and the old system which Pat feels will help the smaller staff manage data.

Standard refurbishment cost can't be used under ICRS when an incident returns items. If 10,000 sleeping bags were ordered and only 5,000 returned, the return would not be credited until the other 5,000 bags were returned. If this was in place now, we would still have five major incidents open.

There's been a change made to priority list based on conference calls. Communication is key, if the cache has a heads up of anticipated problems, they can make plans to get items from other parts of the country.

Long term planning – limited resources; we need to use smarter, better.

Customer Relations issues – There are not enough resources or money to buy additional resources. NRK has 24 positions – 12 PFT/12 seasonal. They can't send what they don't have. If there are issues, call Pat directly at 1-406-329-4932.

We need to try to send things the most effective way without breaking down pallets.

1. By law, property must be tracked, what goes out must come back. If it doesn't come back, NRK must report to the Forest Supervisor.
2. Forest Sup must find out why items didn't come back and an AD-112 must be filled out.

**Colleen Finneman and Julie Polutnik from NRC updated us on changes to the SIT report and the 209 Program.**

SIT Report

There are more changes to the SIT report regarding protection and ownership. This year, beginning January 1, we report by protection and ownership. There is a test site available to go practice in.

209

For 209, more mandatory blocks were added. It is important that you enter accurate information. Some of the mandatory blocks are Block 6 (Wildland Fire Strategy – i.e. perimeter control, limited perimeter control, etc.) and Block 11 (Unit with protection responsibility). Block 11 will fill in from information entered into Block 4 (Incident Project number) so make sure Block 11 is correct.

There are no changes in reporting times for SIT report/209.

It is recommended that you practice SIT Reports when practicing ROSS to get familiar with the changes.

Incident Prioritization

Decision Support Model used by NR MAC in 2007 for incident prioritization is being expanded to the zone level. The Incident Prioritization worksheet will be completed electronically and sent to NRCC Intell. The zones will have the same as geographic area uses.



The program will be put in a central location in each zone. Colleen will help come train. Hopefully will be implemented this year.

**Andy Hayes gave a video presentation about the Smokejumpers and an update on their dispatch center.**

The preferred method for receiving smokejumper orders is through ROSS. 85% of orders received came in for initial attack. It's best to order late in the afternoon or evening for deployment in the early morning because better wind conditions and cooler temperatures exist then. Lat/Long information as well as hazards and frequencies are needed. ABC Miscellaneous can be used for smokejumper orders. A roster of names will be sent to receiving unit. Please remember to release aircraft so Andy doesn't have to go into ROSS and do it.

Smokejumpers will be attending D-110 in Missoula in a couple weeks to get trained in ROSS.

The smokejumper status page is located at: <http://www.nifc.gov/smokejumper/smjrppt.php>  
Order based on need, not availability. Cargo drops can be made as well if smokejumper aircraft is in the area. Usually there is a Type 3 IC and 2 DIVS on nearly every load sent out of MSO,

When asked, the dispatchers told Andy they welcomed the smokejumper aircraft calling in when entering airspace in addition to the 15 minute check-in.

**Jose Lopez from NIRSC discussed radio equipment and frequencies.**

Jose is the POC for R1/R2 frequency issues or if the CDO is not available.

The Geographical Area representatives provide updated frequency information.

Each incident must put in a request for frequencies.

Order early! Call CDO and request assignment.

2 to 12 hour timeline from FAA

3 temporary frequencies are assigned to the cache to be used until the FAA issues frequencies for your incident. These must be changed when the FAA frequencies are received.

No changes for Air to Air at this time.

123.975 ATB assignment (some may be changed). Call CDO if there is an issue.

Pre-positioned Radio Systems

2 – Starter Systems (4390) per cache

Extra VHF repeaters (4312)

Extra VHF radio kits (4381)

Questions were asked about leaving radio equipment at incident when they transition to a Type 3 team. There have been issues of equipment getting lost. Better communication is necessary to get better equipment locations. Check with CDO about keeping equipment on incident when going to a Type 3 team. As long as someone takes responsibility for equipment, it probably won't be an issue. The key is a transition plan. If equipment can be kept, identify who will be responsible for tracking the equipment.

### **Roy Grant provided information about ordering and using Incident Medical Personnel**

Medical Unit Leader (MEDL) – EMT (doesn't need to be current) Manages medical equipment/ needs. Works for the Safety Officer.

EMTB (Basic) – Performs basic life support, splinting, stopping bleeding.

Short-term, most states don't pay attention if the EMTB is not licensed in the state they are practicing.

Required that the state is notified and credentials sent for verification.

EMTP (Paramedic) – Carries more drugs and performs as listed for EMTB.

Have to be licensed in the state they are working – even when they are on incidents.

EMTs can be licensed in more than one state. If an out of state EMT can get licensed in the state, they still must have a doctor oversee them. EMTs have no legal authority to diagnose and treat even minor illnesses/injuries. There are no physical requirements for the EMT positions. EMT's from out of state can only function as an EMTB regardless of the level authorized by the state in which the EMT is licensed, unless also licensed in the state hosting the incident.

The National Park Service can license NPS EMTs only for National Parks. National Park Service EMTs can practice within any National Park boundary. They are not legal out of the parks unless they have a state license.

Legal actions have been taken against those who have practiced illegally. It is the EMT's responsibility to get licensed and a doctor to oversee them. National Registry for EMTs does not give a license, only gives a listing of registered EMTs.

In rural states, it is difficult to find people that can leave their registered (EMT) jobs and go to fire.

### Incident Medical Specialist (IMS) Program

The purpose of this program is to have trained personnel on incident assess and treat. We need to reduce the spread of viral and bacterial infections by pushing better hygiene and sanitation. A Medical Director (Dr. Upchurch) oversees the IMS program for the NR.

### Incident Medical Specialist Team

Consists of 4 positions that are ordered as single resources. The IMS team consists of the following:

IMSM (Manager) – (One position) Has years of training and oversees IMS personnel. This person is also red carded as MEDL.

IMSA (Assistant) – (One position) Assists manager, also has years of training.

IMST (Technician) – (Two positions) Receives experience mostly through on the job training.

There are no trainees in the IMS program. After training, they become IMSTs and can go out as a technician.

All persons approved in the IMS program must have the following:

All must have Current EMT-B certification or be licensed in the state and active with EMS service.

Must take basic fire courses:

S-130

S-190

I-200

IS-700

Annual Fire Line Safety Training

On the job training at an incident.

Annual refresher on EMT endorsements for those that carry a Montana license to practice.

Mary Jo Lommen tracks IMS people available to fill orders. She prioritizes when shortages occur and would like to attend in-briefing with Incident Management teams to explain the IMS program. The IMS program also is in Washington and Oregon. Montana allows their IMS people to go within these areas. We can move IMS folks through the Northern Rockies because there is an MOU in place. Most are hired as EFF or ADs.

The Alaska Fire Medic program uses the IMS protocol.

**Other Items Mentioned.**

Law Enforcement

Montana Sheriff and Peace Officer Association is working with DNRC to produce evacuation teams. (STAR teams). Not all of the details are worked out yet.

Radio Equipment

We've had problems with knowing where they were – not all shipping and status-ing info was received. The Northern Rockies will work with NICC & NIRSC.

Dispatcher Workshop

The Steering Committee would like all feedback (positive OR negative) to be sent to Mark Heppler at: [mheppler@blm.gov](mailto:mheppler@blm.gov)